

F-4-23

John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead
Middletown vicinity
Private

Ca. 1857-1940

The John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead consists of domestic and agricultural groups of buildings on both sides of Holter Road southeast of Middletown. The domestic group has a ca. 1857 brick dwelling with a two-bay main section and a side-by-side wing with a two-story porch. The house has molded lintels and a scroll-sawn balustrade on the porch. Other buildings on the southwest side of Holter Road are a deteriorated brick smokehouse of about 1940 with a tree inside which came from an earlier Remsberg family smokehouse on another farm, a deteriorated frame summer kitchen, two frame chicken houses, a deteriorated shed, and a non-contributing concrete block garage and office structure. The agricultural group has a frame bank barn of about the same date as the house, a circa 1923 concrete block dairy barn with a 1937 extension, a two-level corn crib/wagon shed, a frame hog barn, and two silos. The farmstead represents the agricultural development of Frederick County from principally grain-producing farms in the mid-19th century to the dairy operations of the 20th century. The bank barn which served the earlier farm was supplemented in the 1920's by the concrete dairy barn, a reflection of the health regulations which accompanied the expanding dairy industry. Dairy production replaced grain in connection with the growth of the metropolitan area of Washington, D.C. in the period 1920 to the present.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 7432 Holter Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Middletown ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John H. Remsberg, Jr. et al

street & number 7111 Old Middletown Road telephone no.:

city, town Middletown state and zip code Md. 21769

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1304

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 750

city, town Middletown state Md. 21769

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-23

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 13

The John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead is an agricultural complex dating from about 1857 to 1940 which includes a circa 1857 brick dwelling with a deteriorated frame summer kitchen of about the same period, a circa 1940 brick smokehouse, two frame chicken houses, a deteriorated frame shed, and an agricultural group consisting of a frame bank barn approximately contemporary with the house, a circa 1930 two-level frame corn crib and wagon shed, a circa 1923 concrete block dairy barn with a 1937 extension, two concrete silos of the 1930's, and a frame hog barn of about 1923. The farmstead is located on both sides of Holter Road just southeast of Middletown, Frederick County, Maryland. The domestic group on the southwest side of the road also includes a non-contributing concrete block and brick garage with an integral office space. The agricultural group on the northeast side of the road has two non-contributing concrete block structures, one an equipment shed near the bank barn and the other a small barn with a gambrel roof north of the hog barn.

The dwelling faces northeast and is set back from Holter Road across a small creek which passes through the property to a pond south east of the house. The house has two sections, a two bay, two-story main part with a side-by-side two-story brick wing built at the same time. Both sections are in 5:1 American bond with a corbeled brick cornice. The main section has two bays with the entrance in the inner bay and a one-story porch with turned columns across the entire facade. The window openings have molded wood lintels, wood sills, 6/6 sash, and louvered shutters. The doorway has a three-light transom and the door has arched molding panels. The roof is composition material and the main section has two chimney stacks, one enclosed by the adjoining wing. The wing has an integral two-story porch with square posts and a scroll-sawn decorative balustrade on the second level. Four bays in the wing's northeast elevation have two entrances in the inner bays. These have paneled soffits and three-light transoms, and the window openings have molded lintels as on the main section. The sash is 6/6. An interior end chimney rises at the south gable end. On the flat rear or southwest elevation are three widely spaced bays with an added bathroom window on the second floor. The rear doorway from the wing has a modern wood deck. A cellar entrance is located on the south gable end. On the southwest corner is a brick extension, perhaps a storage room, on a raised stone foundation. It has a window on the southwest side and a shed roof. The interior was not accessible for this survey.

Domestic Outbuildings:

Smokehouse: The brick smokehouse was built about 1940, according to Mr. Adrian Remsberg, one of the current owners. It has a gable roof with an overhang on the northeast elevation. It is lined with concrete block and has a labeled wood tree which Mr. Remsberg said was brought from an earlier smokehouse on another family property.

Summer kitchen: The deteriorated frame summer kitchen has two stories and a one-room plan with a brick fireplace on the south gable end. The exterior is

(Continued on separate sheet)

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-23

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates C. 1857-C. 1940

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead is a good example of a farm of the mid-19th century which shows the changes in the agricultural industry in Frederick County during the period from the late 1850's to the 1940's, a time in which the principal agricultural base moved from wheat and other grain production to dairying, as the demand for milk products increased with the expansion of the nearby Washington metropolitan area in the period about 1920 into the present. The farmstead has the separate dairy barn which signified not only the massive increase in milking operations, but also the concurrent health regulations of the industry which called for separation of the process from other agricultural functions. The house is also a good representative of the architecture of the rural dwelling of the third quarter the 19th century, with the side-by-side wing and main section which was a traditional form of the early 19th century, with the addition of decorative balustrades and moldings of the more industrialized post-1850 period.

The Remsberg Farmstead is typical of several farms in the immediate vicinity of Middletown which show the chronology of buildings of both domestic and agricultural use. Other examples are the Jonathan Routzahn Farmstead (F-4-20) and the Routzahn-Darner Farmstead (F-4-21). John Harmon Remsberg (1832-1898) was one of the founders of the Valley Savings Bank and a director of the Grangers Mutual Fire Insurance Company. The Holter Road farm was probably built about the time of his marriage to Mary Lighter in 1857. When he acquired the title to the farm in 1865 by the last will of his father John Remsberg, it was described as "the farm on which he now resides", indicating that it was established by that date. The tract was part of the northern section of the Remsberg family homestead established in about 1791. At the time of his death in 1898, J. Harmon Remsberg owned two 135-acre farms, both of which were passed on to his sons. The Remsberg family still owns the Holter Road farm, but the domestic group is currently unoccupied and for sale separately from the agricultural buildings, which are no longer in active use as a dairy operation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-23

Bond, Isaac, Map of Frederick County, 1858.

Land Records of Frederick County

Titus, C.O., Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

Williams, T.J.C. & Folger McKinsey, History of Frederick County, V. II, 1910, Reprinted
Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, pp. 1379, 1425.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5 acresQuadrangle name Middletown, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA

Zone	Easting							Northing	

B

Zone	Easting							Northing	

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately five acres centered on front lawn of dwelling house including the domestic group on the west side of Holter Road and the agricultural group on the east side of the road.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date February, 1992street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone _____city or town Frederick state Md. 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

F-4-23

John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead
Middletown
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Domestic/secondary structure/kitchen
Domestic/secondary structure/smokehouse
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn
Agriculture/subsistence/storage/granary

Known Design Source: None

7.1 Description Continued)

tongue-and-groove siding, with a large opening in the north wall. The few existing windows are mostly 6/6 or 6/1.

Chicken houses: The two frame chicken houses have shed roofs, tongue-and-groove and board and batten siding with the windowed elevations facing south. These structures are also deteriorated and probably date from the last quarter of the 19th century or the first quarter of the 20th.

Frame shed: This deteriorated shed may have been built as an early garage in the first decade of the 20th century. It has a corrugated shed roof and vertical siding, with a wide door on the northeast elevation. It is located next to the non-contributing concrete block garage/office building.

Agricultural Outbuildings:

Bank barn: The bank barn, as are all the agricultural structures, is located on the northeast side of Holter Road. It was probably built about 1857 along with the domestic structures. The large rectangular barn has a loafing shed with a metal roof on the north gable end and the lower level, facing south, is partially enclosed with lattice, a detail often seen on barns of the lower Middletown Valley. The louvred vents in the vertical siding of the upper structure are framed with decorative moldings.

Dairy barn: The dairy barn has two sections, a 1923 rusticated concrete block main part with a standing seam metal gambrel roof and decorative metal ridge ventilators. The gable ends are covered with german siding. A plain concrete block extension on the long south elevation was added in 1937, probably to facilitate an expansion in dairy operations. Two concrete silos are located on the north side of the barn and probably date from the same period, 1923-1937.

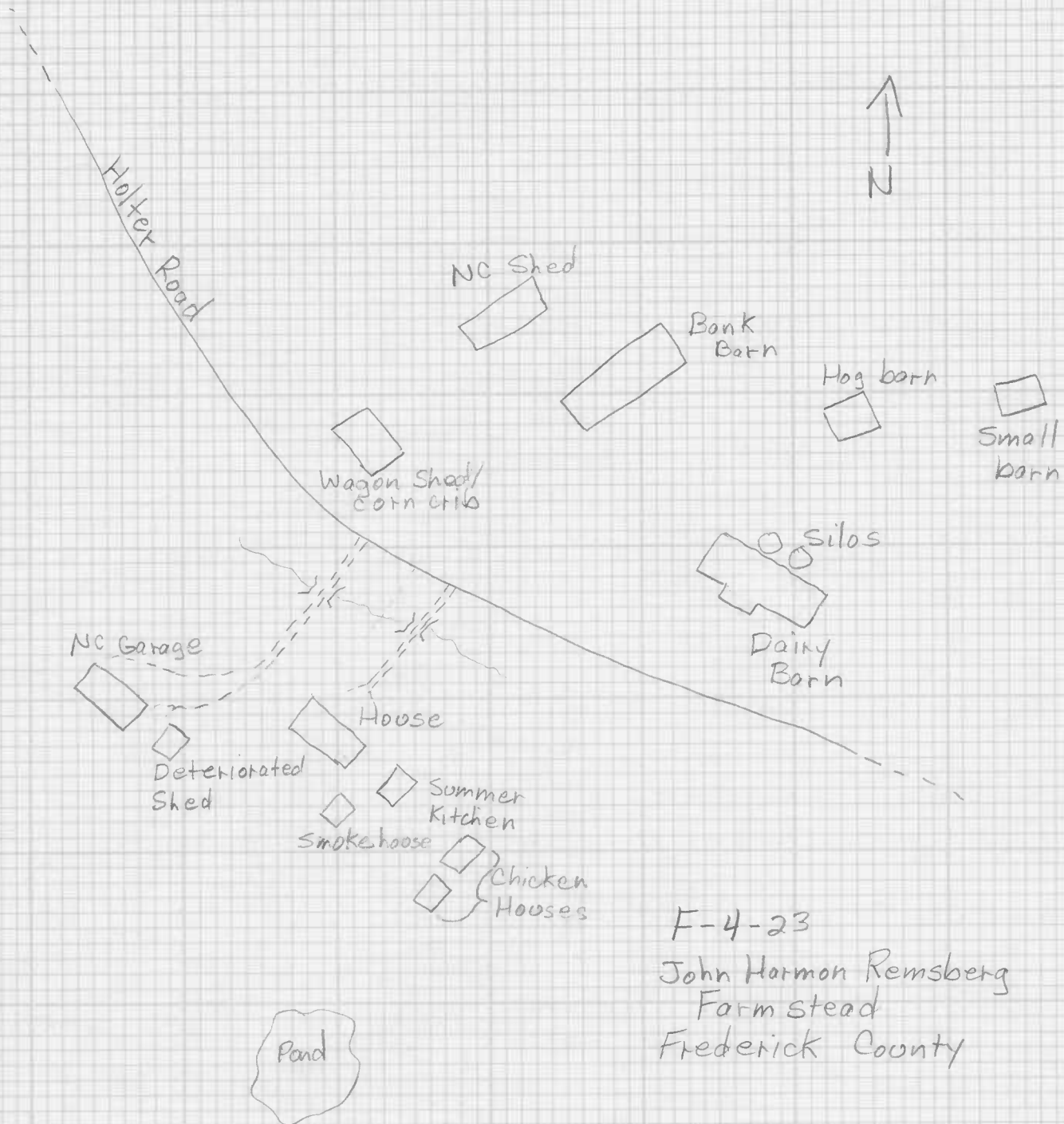
Hog barn: The frame hog barn has vertical tongue-and-groove siding and a corrugated metal roof. Located northeast of the bank barn, it was probably built in the 1920's or 1930's in response to health regulations associated with the dairy industry.

Corn crib/wagon shed: The two-level corn crib and wagon shed built about 1930-35 is located near Holter Road with the shed at road level. The upper level, with a ramp on the north elevation, is the granary. According to Mr. Remsberg, the structure was built when Holter Road was relocated to the south, and the former roadbed against the excavated hillside was built over to form the lower level shed. The shed has double drive-through spaces. On the upper vertical board siding are the painted monograms "LF", symbolizing the name "Locvale Farm", which was given to the farm by J. Homer Remsberg, the owner from 1926 to 1976.

#28 Remsburg on Hatter

LIBER/FOL. O	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1304/750 9 Oct 85	Sharon S. Kidd et al	Robert C. Shank, exec. of estate of Joyce Remsburg Shank died 9 Oct 1984	132.879 a.		
1082/556 17 May 79	Joyce R. Shank et al	Sarah L. Remsburg, et al, pers. reps. of estate of J. Homer Remsburg (son of Abby McC. Remsburg) died 13 Apr 76	P. 1; "Home Farm" 63.31 a. (not orig. Remsburg family home farm)		
356/529 1 Apr 26	J. Homer & Abby McCordell Remsburg	Amos L. Remsburg & Ida May Remsburg			
Will Record JKW 2/289 probate 20 May 1898	Amos L. Remsburg	J. Harmon Remsburg will dated 27 Apr 1898 (1832-1898)	123 a.		
Will Record TL Mc. 1-129 Probate 2-27-1895	J. Harmon Remsburg & farm	John Remsburg	"The farm on which he now resides"		

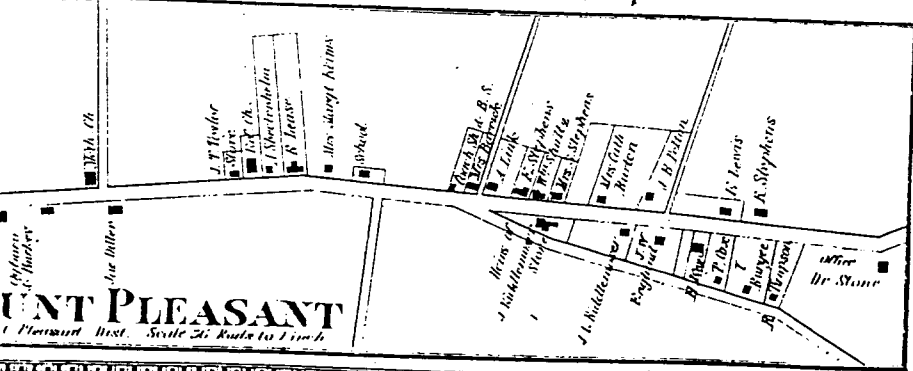
F-4-23



F-4-23

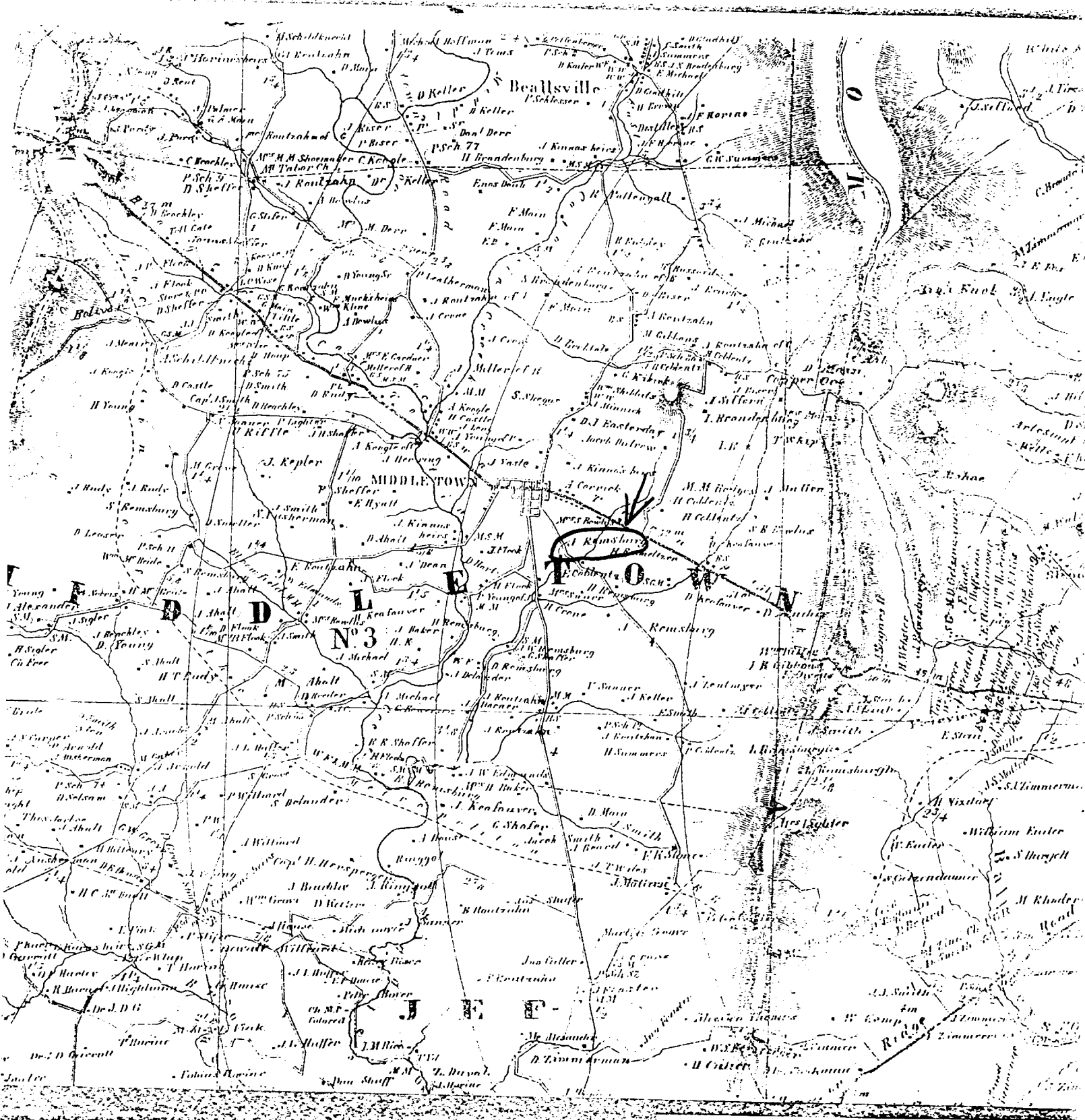
John Harmon Remsberg
Farmstead
Frederick County

Janet Davis
January 28, 1992
Not to Scale

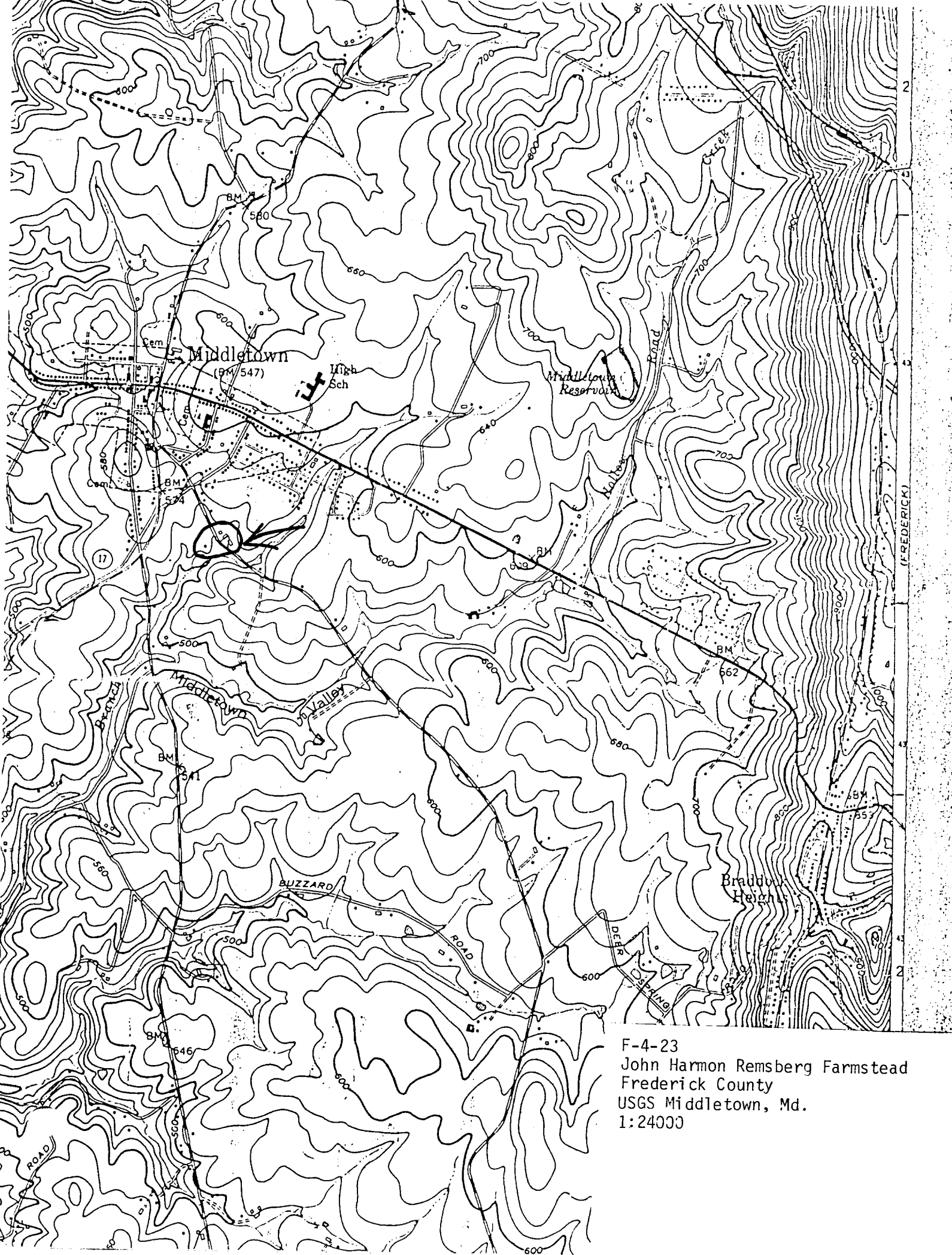


Scale 1 1/2 Inches to the Mile

F-4-23
John Harmon Remsburg Farmstead
Frederick County
C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick
County, 1873



F-4-23
John Harmon Remsberg Farmsstead
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick
County, 1858



F-4-23
John Harmon Remsberg Farmstead
Frederick County
USGS Middletown, Md.
1:24000



Feb. 4. 23

Sci. Museum, Washington, D.C.
Frederick County

Traces of some of the

Traces of some of the

Non-occurrence of some of the

Non-occurrence of some of the

1/4



F 423

Telluride House Reminders: Jan. 4, 2012

Hydrolytic Sand

Photo: 2-0-1-12

January 1992

1992 SHPO, Crowder's, 11/2

Southwest elevation

5/2



Feb 1972

John Haysen - Koushik - Tom Simon

Photo - 1/2/72

Photo - 1/2/72

Photo - 1/2/72

Neg. loc: 1/2/72 - 1/2/72 - 1/2/72

Summer 1972 - 1/2/72 - 1/2/72 - 1/2/72

1/2/72

1/2/72



Feb 20

John Harmer Peninsula, Maryland
Frederick County

Photo: Jared Davis

January 1992

Neg. loc. N.J. SHPC, Oronokeville, N.J.

2 mi. Southeast of Hartsville

4/6



2-4-23

John Harner Remslens Farmstead

Friedrich County

Photo East View

20.20.1222

Neg. loc: 17d, SHPC, Granville Rd

Dairy Barn, South side of

3/5



F-4.23

John Hammer Rembrandt Farm school

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

January 1972

Reg. loc.: Md. MPO. Crownsville, Md.

Wagon 5 1/2" / 1000 x 18, View from southeast

5/6